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Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 159



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CONTENTS

PAGE

HUMAN DISEASES

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- Uruguay, Argentina Sign Health Agreement
(EL DIA, 18 Aug 79) 1

AUSTRALIA

- Press Reports Issues in Aboriginal Health Care
(Various sources, various dates) 2
- Leprosy Resists Drugs, by Lindsay Murdoch
Lower Infant Mortality Rate
- Hospital Bed Rationalization Begins in New South Wales
(Ron Hicks; THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 21 Aug 79).... 4
- Briefs
- Legionnaires Disease 5
- Hospital Infection 5

CAMEROON

- Douala Center Vaccinates 10,000 Children
(CAMEROON TRIBUNE, 1 Aug 79) 6
- Briefs
- Schistosomiasis, Malaria, Trypanosomiasis Warning 8

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
HUNGARY	
Infectious Hepatitis Noted: Other Ailment Traced to Contaminated Cheese (NEPSZABADSAG, 20 Sep 79)	9
INDIA	
Two Malaria Strains Cultured in Laboratory (Sumanta Banerjee; BUSINESS TIMES, 18 Jul 79)	10
IRAN	
Briefs Anticholera Campaign Announced	11
JAPAN	
Briefs Contagious Diseases Research	12
KENYA	
Increased Measles Deaths, Increasing Incidence of Venereal Diseases (DAILY NATION, 5 Sep 79)	13
LAOS	
Briefs Paksan Sayaboury Health Work	14
MOZAMBIQUE	
Briefs Partial Tetanus Vaccination Statistics	15
RHODESIA	
Measles Epidemic Losing Ground (THE HERALD, 11 Sep 79)	16
Briefs Rotary Gives Measles Vaccine	18

CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

SOUTH AFRICA

- Immunization Making Headway Against Measles
(Lawrence Mayekiso; THE CITIZEN, 8 Sep 79) 19

SPAIN

- Officials Announce Cholera Cases Not Serious
(Madrid Domestic Service, 20 Sep 79) 20

TURKEY

- 'Intestinal Infection' Reportedly Spreading in Ankara
(HURRIYET, 22 Aug 79) 21

URUGUAY

- Large Number of Tuberculosis Cases Go Unreported
(LA MANANA, 22 Aug 79) 23
- Briefs
German Measles Epidemic Prevention 25

ZAIRE

- Problems Related to Cholera Epidemic Reported
(ELIMA, 23, 25 Aug 79) 26
- Fight Against Cholera
Vaccination Program Marred by Fraud, by
Budim'Bani Yambu K.

ANIMAL DISEASES

AUSTRALIA

- Anticancer Vaccine for Cattle Proves Successful
(THE COURIER-MAIL, 9 Aug 79) 28
- Researchers Develop Vaccine Against Newcastle Disease
(THE AUSTRALIAN, 16 Aug 79) 29

MALAYSIA

- Cattle Inoculated Against Foot-and-Mouth Disease
(NEW STRAITS TIMES, 29 Jul 79) 30

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
RHODESIA	
Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eases, Sales Begin (THE HERALD, 8 Sep 79)	31
PLANT DISEASES AND INSECT PESTS	
AUSTRALIA	
Australians Face Worst Locust Plague Since 1953 (Various sources, 30 Aug 79)	33
New South Wales Warning Plague in Southern Queensland	
Briefs	
Diseased Oysters	35
GHANA	
Diseased Cocoa Trees Removal Campaign Begins (DAILY GRAPHIC, 1 Sep 79)	36
LAOS	
Briefs	
Plant Pests in Champassak	37
Phong Hong Infestation	37
Chantabouli Pests	37
Heavy Phong Saly Infestation	37
Oudomsai Infestation	38
Louang Namtha Pests	38
Champassak Pests	38

URUGUAY, ARGENTINA SIGN HEALTH AGREEMENT

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 18 Aug 79 p 7

[Text] With the approval by the Council of State of the law which ratifies the health agreement signed in Paysandu in November, 1978, Uruguay and Argentina will now be able to wage a joint battle for the prevention and treatment of different diseases these countries have in common in the health field.

By February 1978 an action of this type had already been adopted by another document signed in Buenos Aires, but it was subsequently opposed by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat for Planning, Coordination and Dissemination.

Since these objections were taken into account in the document prepared later on in Paysandu the legislative body ratified it in full. It will go into effect provided that the government enacts the appropriate law, which it is anticipated will take place shortly.

The agreement provides for experts from both countries to carry out common research, epidemiological watches and health education to prevent and fight the following when they occur: poliomyelitis, malaria, rabies, hydatidosis, Argentine hemorrhagic fever, meningococcus meningitis, Chagas' disease, plagues produced by rats, leprosy, venereal diseases and schistosomiasis, the source of which is located in areas near hydroelectric dams and which it is suspected may originate from snails which reproduce in the waters of the reservoirs. According to the agreement the task to be accomplished by the two countries involves strict health inspection of the habitation of persons and animals living along the border, continuous and systematic vaccination programs and intensive education for the prevention of contagious diseases.

A Joint Coordination Committee will be created, in addition, to put the agreement into effect, and work groups will also be formed to carry out pertinent measures.

By the agreement the Argentine government has committed itself to making available to Uruguay a large number of scholarships for the training of health personnel, an obligation which is not reciprocated by our country.

The agreement will be for 6 years, tacitly renewable for 2 year periods, although each one of the contracting parties may terminate it at any time.

AUSTRALIA

PRESS REPORTS ISSUES IN ABORIGINAL HEALTH CARE

Leprosy Resists Drugs

Melbourne THE AGE in English 6 Aug 79 p 5

[Article by Lindsay Murdoch]

[Text]

DARWIN. — Health officials fear a drug-resistant strain of leprosy will affect control of the disease among Northern Australian Aborigines.

Seven Aborigines have already been found to have leprosy which resists the commonly-used drug Acedapson.

Leprosy is slowly spreading south among aboriginal communities in north-west Australia, although the incidence of the disease has dropped since 1970.

Doctors can use drugs other than acedapson to cure leprosy.

But the Northern Territory Health Department has difficulty administering them. They cannot be injected and have to be taken orally, sometimes the for the rest of a sufferer's life.

Further drugs to treat leprosy are on trial around the world.

A departmental official said yesterday: "Few people from any ethnic group will continue faithfully with oral medication for life."

Teams of health officers now inject leprosy sufferers in outback areas with acedapson about each six weeks.

About 830 of 2000 lepers in Australia are Aborigines living in the Northern Territory, mostly in Arnhem Land.

In 1950 there were 50 new cases diagnosed. The figure for 1978 was 14.

The department allows lepers to return to their communities after initial treatment — including a stay in hospital and sometimes surgery to prevent deformity.

Lower Infant Mortality Rate

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 13 Aug 79 p 2

[Text]

CANBERRA. — The lowest aboriginal infant mortality rate Northern Territory and 14 Queensland communities.

In 1978 there were 48.1 deaths within a year of birth for 1000 live births in the Northern Territory and 48.6 in the Queensland communities.

This compared with 74.6 and 54.1 in 1977.

Announcing the figures yesterday, the Federal Health Minister (Mr. Hunt) said they were the lowest since separate figures for aboriginals had started.

He said the trend was most encouraging and a significant improvement since the early 1970's but much more needed to be done.

The Government was

determined there would be no let-up in efforts to improve aboriginal health.

The figures show that between 1969 and last year in the Northern Territory, the rate peaked at 142.9 deaths per 1000 live births in 1971. In the Queensland communities since 1972, the rate peaked at 110 in 1973.

Conditions

Mr. Hunt said the key to improved aboriginal health was better socio-economic and environmental conditions.

This called for co-operation between all Australian Governments and providers of services such as housing, safe water supplies and sewerage.

Responsible authorities must encourage aborigin-

als to be directly involved in the delivery of health care services, he said.

Comprehensive statistical data on aboriginal health in Australia also was needed.

"My department is trying to establish a national system of statistics which will greatly assist in the identification of health problems.

"It also will establish a baseline assessment of aboriginal health from which health programmes can be further developed," Mr. Hunt said.

AUSTRALIA

HOSPITAL BED RATIONALIZATION BEGINS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 21 Aug 79 p 5

[By Medical Writer Ron Hicks]

[Text] The NSW Government will eliminate the equivalent of 870 hospital beds this financial year, in what is sure to be the first step in a rationalisation of hospital beds throughout Australia.

The moves, which will save NSW \$11.3 million, anticipate recommendations of a national inquiry into hospital efficiency and administration.

But with a generally acknowledged oversupply of hospital beds, the Federal Government has already taken action to cut costs through the hospital cost-sharing arrangements.

There was little change over the previous year in actual money terms in July's federal-State hospital funding agreement, which meant that NSW and most other States faced the choice of eliminating an equivalent number of existing beds for any newly-opened hospital beds or pay for the new beds.

NSW has the highest number of hospital beds and one of the highest usage rates.

NSW also had well-advanced plans to open new facilities in under-serviced areas, so it was the hardest hit, with a \$28 million shortfall in real terms.

The NSW Government anticipated cuts and ordered its own cost-cutting study.

With the latest cuts and faced with the inquiry, other States are looking at their hospital systems.

The NSW Health Minister, Mr Stewart, called a special conference of senior hospital representatives, unions and professional associations to tell them of the rationalisation.

The main points are:

CSO: 5400

ELIMINATION of 870 beds, mainly from the inner city and lower North Shore areas of Sydney, to save \$11 million.

AS an alternative to closing beds, Mr Stewart urged hospitals to co-operate by reducing the excessive number of special units (such as heart and kidney units).

RECLASSIFY sections of hospitals containing 3800 long-term patients into nursing-home facilities.

REGROUPING

HOSPITALS reorganised into nine categories, ranging from referral hospitals and present teaching hospitals, down to nursing and medical care.

Mr Stewart promised that no staff would be sacked and reductions would be by natural attrition.

But, he said, the rationalisation did mean there would be a freeze on recruitment, except in special circumstances.

Mr Stewart said the rationalisation was a sensible redistribution of health-care facilities to reflect the shift in population.

The State Government has just opened a vast new hospital at Westmead which should reduce the demand on the inner-city hospitals and will merely exacerbate the oversupply in the area.

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE--Adelaide.--A 34-year-old man has died in the Royal Adelaide Hospital of legionnaires disease. It is the first death reported in SA from the mysterious pneumonia-like disease and the fourth fatal case in Australia. The victim was Mr. Crag Edwin Nathan, production planner, of Clearview, an Adelaide suburb. He died on Wednesday night following a positive diagnosis of legionnaires disease. It was the second reported case in SA. [Text]
[Melbourne THE AGE in English 31 Aug 79 p 1]

HOSPITAL INFECTION--Melbourne: Melbourne's hospitals have been hit by an infection that is resistant to most antibiotics. The infection is staphylococcus aureus, which is common in the community but is a serious problem within the hospital environment. The medical superintendent at Melbourne's Alfred Hospital, Dr Ray Stettaford, said yesterday that staphylococcus commonly caused acne pimples in teenagers and boils in adults. There were several different types of the infection in Melbourne hospitals but those causing problems had built up an immunity to antibiotics commonly used against infections. [Excerpts]
[Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 29 Aug 79 p 31]

CSO: 9400

DOUALA CENTER VACCINATES 10,000 CHILDREN

Yaounde CAMEROON TRIBUNE in English 1 Aug 79 p 4

[Text] A team of the Ministry of Health, Department of Preventive medicine and Public Hygiene is busy vaccinating kids in the Wouri Division.

The team is headed by Mrs. Eyaga'a Ruth, a State Resistered Nurse. In June, a total of 10,000 kids from the ages of two months to six years, were vaccinated against various diseases.

Preventive Medicine teams are rotating in 18 centres in the Wouri division. The teams have laid out a daily programme from now till June 1980.

Speaking to the Cameroon Tribune at the "Central PMI"[Maternal and Infant Protection Center] in Douala, Mrs. Eyafa'a said the vaccinations and vaccines are free.

The team is made up of nine staff, headed by a State registered nurse and have a means of transportation provided by "OCEAC".

Narrating the manner in which they work, she said on arrival in the morning, they give out numbers to the mother of children on the basis of first come, first served. The distribution of the numbers is followed by a lecture-- (health education) in which they explain to the mothers what vaccination is, how to take care of it after receiving it and what children should be vaccinated. They also lecture that women on the type of vaccinations that are given and also advised on other aspects.

At the end of the lectures, the mothers ask questions on what they don't understand. After the questions and explanations, vaccination then begins.

The vaccination is carried out in two sections: One section is charged with the checking and the verification of children who had received vaccination before and what they further need. The other section deals with those children who have never received vaccination before, their ages, and what should be given to them.

Mrs. Eyafa'a narrated the different diseases against which the children are vaccinated and described the "Ped-O-get" machine that shoots vaccines.

The vaccines are supplied by the Ministry of Health, she said. Only six months old pregnant mothers are vaccinated against tetanus.

Talking about problems, Mrs. Eyafa'a said they would have had no problems if parents had understood the need for their children to be vaccinated. She said some parents bring their children for vaccination just in order to get a certificate so that their children should be admitted into schools. After the first vaccination they never come again for the second or other doses. This is very insufficient for the children because they receive only half the required dose. She brought out drawings and other apparatus showing the different diseases against which children are vaccinated. She also pointed out the dangers of not vaccinating a child. She showed journalists the different vaccines used for different diseases: the "B. C. G." for the prevention of tuberculosis, the "DPT" for the prevention of diphtheria.

She appealed to husbands to send their pregnant wives for vaccination against tetanus.

The vaccination teams rotate between the centres of Bepanda, New Bell dispensary, the dispensary at SIC [Cameroonian Real Estate Company] quarters, dispensary at Bassa, the Party House at Bepanda, the Catholic church at New Bell, Madagascar, Bonaberi dispensary, St. Paul maternity, Central PMI [Maternal and Infant Protection Center], the Public School in Akwa North, to name only a few.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

SCHISTOSOMIASIS, MALARIA, TRYPANOSOMIASIS WARNING--In the first of a series on sanitation and health, the 17 July 1979 Yaounde French-language CAMEROON TRIBUNE devoted all of page 4 to the theme of its title: "Thousands of Deaths Each Year Through Ignorance." First it gave an example of a family of 22 children in which the 19-year old died and five others were extremely ill. On investigation, it was found that there was a potable water supply but it was "too far away" so that the entire family washed in and drank from a nearby polluted stream. The article said that there are thousands of cases like this all over Cameroon and that through ignorance, people attribute the deaths and illnesses to sorcery. Then it quoted Dr Mbarga, chief of medicine for urban dispensaries: "In 1977 urban dispensaries in Yaounde registered 97,431 cases of intestinal parasites and 17,060 cases of diarrhea of various types, or 38.6 percent of Yaounde's inhabitants." "In 1978...the dispensaries registered 1,008,893 cases of illnesses from the water supply or from fecal matter or 252.2 percent of the population...." The article then goes on to describe the causes and symptoms of schistosomiasis, malaria, and trypanosomiasis. It also states that every Cameroonian has malaria. [Editorial report]

CSO: 4400

HUNGARY

INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS NOTED: OTHER AILMENT TRACED TO CONTAMINATED CHEESE

Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 20 Sep 79 p 9 WA

[Excerpts] Between 28 August and 14 September 27 cases of infectious hepatitis occurred in Tiszafured in Szolnok County. All the victims were under the age of 18 and most of them attended grade school. The fact that the cases occurred virtually simultaneously leads to the conclusion that there was a common focus of infection, unidentified to date. In the course of epidemiological investigations the role of the Tiszafured beach as probable focal point was noted. This appears to be substantiated by the fact that similar cases reported in other counties, namely Borsod, Heves and Hajdu, affected persons who had visited the beach at Tiszafured at a time which coincided with the incubation period of the virus. This means that infection probably took place in early Augusts. Health authorities have taken appropriate measures including inoculating those involved with Gamma globulin. Infectious hepatitis is one of most frequent infectious diseases in Hungary. There are usually 6,000-7,000 cases per year, generally in the Fall. Special attention is therefore being paid to early detection and effective countermeasures.

The cases of so-called dysentery reported earlier this month have been found to be due to contaminated cottage cheese distributed to school cafeterias and canteens by a certain dairy. All those who became ill, nearly 1,000 persons, are well on the road to recovery. The specific bacteria involved proved to be Shigella Sonnei.

CSO: 5400

TWO MALARIA STRAINS CULTURED IN LABORATORY

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 18 Jul 79 p 17

[Article by Sumanta Banerjee in New Delhi]

[Text]

RESEARCHERS here have come up with what might be the first step in developing an anti-malaria vaccine.

Although the vaccine itself is still a long way from becoming available, the successful culture of two malaria parasites here can provide the first step.

Two years ago, Dr William Treger of Rockefeller University in New York successfully cultured *P. falciparum* — a malaria infectious agent — for one day.

Now, although its culture can be indefinite scientists have been racking their brains since then to culture the other two malaria killers found in Asian countries — *P. vivax* and *P. malariae*.

This was done recently by Drs A. N. Chowdhury, D. S. Chowdhury, and M. L. Regis of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases' microbiology division.

According to the Indian scientists, earlier efforts to cultivate the strains failed because they have been grown separately.

By growing them together under laboratory

conditions it is perhaps possible, they suspect, to produce some nutrient which is essential for the parasites to sustain in human blood.

While the parasites have to be grown in human blood, they also need nutrients in the blood to survive and must be safeguarded from contamination.

The three Indian doctors used specially designed glass vials as culture vessels instead of plastic petri-dishes, thus reducing the contamination considerably.

They also used 2.4 times more per unit area of an 8 per cent erythrocyte (red-blood cell) suspension seeded per vial. Under these cul-

ture conditions, both *P. malariae* and *P. vivax* species multiplied simultaneously for more than 75 days.

The doctors significantly used only local equipment — a simple glass jar with a few glass vials with an ordinary candle for producing carbon dioxide.

The Indian culture of the two malaria agents comes at a time when researchers are feeling frustrated because of the emergence of parasite

strains resistant to chloroquin — the drug of choice — and other anti-malaria drugs.

But now that the cultures have been grown in laboratories, it would be possible to conduct drug sensitivity tests before trying drugs on human beings.

Besides, antigens — a substance which stimulates the body to produce antibodies against it — could be made available from the laboratory cul-

tures. Meaning, a vaccine might be developed from laboratory cultures.

For a developing country like India, the successful culture of the parasites carries important implications.

The resurgence of malaria has been most dramatic in India where the number of reported cases increased from an all-time low of 40,000 in 1968 to about six million in 1976.

Although physiological resistance to DDT has not developed in any of major malaria-carriers found in the Western Pacific region, multi-drug-resistant strains of *P. falciparum* occur in vir-

tually all countries where the species is still prevalent.

A report made by the United Nations Environment Programme says "the very same chemical properties

which made DDT and chloroquin so successful against malaria are at the root of a current worldwide resurgence of the disease.

"Strains of malaria parasites, which are resistant to known drugs, have already evolved and are now spreading rapidly; more and more populations are becoming resistant to DDT and other insecticides..."

South-East Asia reports the greatest malaria increase in the world and malaria has become re-established near its former endemic level in large areas of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and India.

While the situation has worsened in Thailand, it is aggravated in India and Sri Lanka where the *falciparum* strain — the most fatal form of malaria — has become resistant to commonly used anti-malaria drugs. — Depthnews

IRAN

BRIEFS

ANTICHOLERA CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCED--Tehran--The government Thursday announced a country-wide campaign to combat cholera after five reported deaths last week. The Ministry of Social Welfare said 12,000 cases of el tor, a strain of cholera, have been reported but only 240 out of these have been confirmed. That represented two percent of the total, it said. The ministry said Monday cholera had killed five persons and threatened the entire country but gave no details of the fatalities. The latest statistics indicated the disease had spread and Tehran was among cities affected.
[Text] [Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Sep 79 p 2]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES RESEARCH--Tokyo, 16 Sep--The government plans to conduct extensive-year research, starting next year, on Korean hemorrhagic fever, cholera and other diseases believed brought into Japan from abroad. The health and welfare ministry, which announced the plans, seeks to develop an effective drug to control the mystery fever affecting laboratory workers using rats in animal tests. The ministry also hopes to determine the infection route of cholera, which afflicts some Japanese tourists overseas. Mass outbreaks of Korean hemorrhagic fever occurred among medical experts and nurses of Tohoku and Niigata universities last November. An investigation showed some 70 researchers had been affected by the fever. In a major outbreak in Osaka in the 1970s, one person was killed and 119 others were afflicted by the fever, a highly contagious disease. It was believed to have been stamped out in Japan, until the outbreaks last year. [Text]
[Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 16 Sep 79 OW]

CSO: 5400

INCREASED MEASLES DEATHS, INCREASING INCIDENCE OF VENEREAL DISEASES

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 5 Sep 79 p 5

[Text]

TRADITIONAL beliefs that measles cannot be cured by modern medicine have caused a sharp rise in the number of deaths in Evurori Location, Embu District.

The clinical officer in charge of Ishiara Hospital, Mr. James Ndiero, has said:

"It is unfortunate to note that, instead of taking the sick to hospital, people choose to treat them with traditional herbs including the local liquor, karubu, which is used to wash patients."

He said it was only when cases became critical that patients were referred to the hospital — when they had already developed complications which could no longer be cured.

The officer also said that venereal diseases were on the increase, particularly in Ishiara township, and this was because people affected favoured herbs which only made the ailments resistant to drugs.

He noted that those infected with the diseases remained

carriers for too long before going to hospital after realising that the herbs were of no use.

Mr. Ndiero appealed to people to discard their traditional beliefs and make use of the free modern medicine provided by the Government.

He said leaders, particularly chiefs and their assistants, should organise barazas aimed at educating wananchi on the importance of medical attention to help raise a nation of healthy people.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

PAKSAN SAYABOURY HEALTH WORK--Operating under the Public Health Ministry's guideline "Disease Preventing is Primary, Treatment is Important", on 25 July the [Meuang] Paksan District Public Health Department, Vientiane Province opened a school to train village health workers in [Tasseng] Thabok Canton. Some 50 health combatants from [Tasseng] Thabok and Phabat cantons of that district participated. During that time the [Meuang] Paksan District Public Health Department sent a number of malaria prevention medics to spray DDT to kill malaria bacteria [sic] along waterways and around people's houses in the various cantons of the district. In only a short time they were able to complete the spraying of two cantons: [Tasseng] Sivilai and Songkhon. Presently they are diligently continuing to complete the spraying of all the cantons as called for in the plan. Further news reports indicate that in May, the people of [Tasseng] Ken Thao, Pak Khem, Houai Leuk, Donmen and Meuang No Cantons of [Meuang] Ken Thao District, Sayaboury Province joined together, worked and contributed their personal funds to build a hospital in [Tasseng] Ken Thao Canton. The hospital has three buildings, each of 20 meters in length and 8 meters wide. The construction is nearing completion. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 7 Aug 79 p A 2]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

PARTIAL TETANUS VACCINATION STATISTICS--The vaccination campaign is continuing at a steady pace in the Greater Maputo area. Approximately 7,750 workers have been vaccinated against tetanus in the Maputo industrial zone. Meanwhile, a special team initiated yesterday in the capital the anti-tetanus vaccination campaign among school children. [Excerpt]
[Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 11 Sep 79 p 1]

CSO: 5400

MEASLES EPIDEMIC LOSING GROUND

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 11 Sep 79 p 5

[Text] The Salisbury Health Department is on the way to win its fight against what was reported as a serious outbreak of measles in Mashonaland about a month ago.

In an "intensive campaign" launched by the department to halt the disease, more than 24,000 children have been vaccinated in and around Salisbury.

This figure is the equivalent of a normal year's immunisation.

The department also installed a mobile clinic at the Harare bus terminus, and used a loudspeaker to invite parents to have their children vaccinated. The campaign is directed at children under five, and all immunisation is free.

"We are definitely winning the battle," Dr O. L. Mbengeranwa, Salisbury's acting Medical Officer of Health, said yesterday.

"This is proved by our figures that show that the number of admissions to hospitals of children suffering from the disease have dropped recently."

He said in August there were 657 admissions to the infectious disease section of the Harare hospital and 19 deaths.

Dr Mbengeranwa described these figures as "only the tip of the iceberg."

He said many clinics were coping with a large number of cases where people could afford to pay for immunisation or treatment.

Complicated

"The situation has been complicated by an influx of 21,000 people from the rural areas, which has brought the disease into towns. If only one

infected child sleeps in a room with 10 others, they will all contract the disease," he said.

Dr Mbegeranwa said the vaccine donated from Rotary International and another 10,000 doses which were expected in Salisbury soon, would be used to launch a second intensive campaign against the disease in the next two weeks.

"Hopefully, this will allow us to win the campaign," he added.

CSO: 5400

RHODESIA

BRIEFS

ROTARY GIVES MEASLES VACCINE--Jan Van Schaik, the district governor of district 925 of Rotary International (right), hands over 10,000 doses of measles vaccine to Salisbury's acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr O. L. Mbengeranwa. The vaccine was supplied by five Pretoria Rotary clubs and will be used by the Salisbury Health Department to help halt the present epidemic. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 11 Sep 79 p 5]

CSO: 5400

IMMUNIZATION MAKING HEADWAY AGAINST MEASLES

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 8 Sep 79 p 11

[Article by Lawrence Mayekiso]

[Text]

THE epidemic of measles among Black children is spreading, according to Dr I Richards, Johannesburg's Medical Officer of Health.

He said that during the past two months there were 11 deaths due to measles infection — two of these in the Johannesburg area.

This year's epidemic appears to be less severe in Soweto because children between the ages six months and four years were immunised against measles from the beginning of this year.

Dr Richards said an annual measles epidemic among

Black children was usual.

In the past there was a 50-60 percent ratio of infection between Johannesburg and neighbouring towns but the Johannesburg figures had dropped significantly this year because of the effectiveness of the immunisation programme launched at the beginning of this year.

A total of 2 000 children have been immunised every month.

The latest figures of children admitted to the CDR infectious disease hospital near Randaport are: June (60), July (60), August (106). The figures for areas outside Johannesburg were: June (60), July (74) and August (127).

It is suspected that measles may have spread to Johannesburg from neighbouring townships and the peak in Johannesburg may yet come.

According to Dr Richards the disease is more prevalent during winter and fades towards Christmas.

He has appealed to all Black parents with small children to bring their children who have not yet been immunised to local clinics.

SPAIN

OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE CHOLERA CASES NOT SERIOUS

Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Sep 79 LD

[Summary] The press office of the health ministry has reported that as of yesterday there have been 69 cases of cholera in Malaga, 4 of whom have died. Three of these fatalities were, according to the same sources, old people who had other complications. The fourth death was a Moroccan who became ill onboard a boat taking him to Malaga.

Yesterday, the health ministry continues, people in hospital suffering from cholera numbered 13, all of whom are recovering. The rest of the cases have been discharged.

As far as Barcelona is concerned, the total number of confirmed cases is 32, 1 of whom has died. There are at present 10 cases recovering in hospital. The health ministry press office says finally that the majority of the 69 Malaga cases and the 32 Barcelona cases are suffering from not very serious diarrhea. The number of cases could continue to increase, many of which would, without the present checks, have gone undetected due to the slightness of the infection. We consider that, from a health viewpoint, the problem has not increased either in seriousness or importance.

CSO: 5400

TURKEY

'INTESTINAL INFECTION' REPORTEDLY SPREADING IN ANKARA

Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 22 Aug 79 pp 1,9

[Excerpt] Widespread death is being caused by the situation that filth, carelessness and neglect create in the squatters' districts which fringe the large cities such as Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. With the arrival of summer, the Angel of Death began his patrols in the outlying areas of the large cities. It is said that 54 children lost their lives in 2 months in Ankara. In Sefakoy in Istanbul, 100 ill persons were seen. There are open sores on the children's faces; some of them infested with maggots.

54 Children Dead

It was determined that 54 children had died in Ankara within the past 2 months of a disease referred to by Health Ministry officials as "intestinal infection" but called "cholera" by the public. Presently in the capital city's hospitals, 185 children were found to be struggling with the same disease.

Despite the assurances of Health and Social Assistance Minister Mete Tan and Provincial Health Director Akbulut Alatan that "not one case of intestinal infection has been encountered in the capital city as a result of successful efforts," it is seen that fatal intestinal infection is gradually spreading, especially among children, in various hospitals.

Moreover, it was learned that a total of 185 children were struggling against death yesterday, with 50 in Telsizler Hospital, 72 in the Social Security Organization Diskapi Hospital, 4 in Numune Hospital, 12 in Ankara Hospital, 12 in the Medical Faculty Hospital and 35 in Hacettepe Hospital.

Pediatricians, who point out that a thousand different germs are responsible for the intestinal infection seen most frequently among children from infancy to 10 years, reported that a large role is played in the spread of the disease by inadequate infrastructure facilities, failure to collect garbage promptly and damage to health by food sold unwrapped. They said that the Health Ministry had not taken the necessary measures in time, just as it does not take the disease seriously.

Panic in Sefakoy

It was determined that the intestinal disease found to have spread from the Maslakcesme District in Sefakoy was caused by a Phillippine bacillus called "E. Coli." The Health Ministry was alerted and teams quickly began testing in the area. Pointing out that the people of Sefakoy, where 150,000 live, had come face to face with death, the authorities stated that the people were in panic.

It was reported, meanwhile, that acid fumes accumulate in the air from chemical combinations in the effluent discharged by 400 factories located in the area and cause the children's sores, skin diseases and infestations on their faces.

Confirming the incident, Sefakoy Mayor Ridvan Unal said:

"We know that 100 people are in the hospital with an unspecified intestinal infection epidemic. We can provide water only once every three days. Everybody is meeting their needs from the pools formed by factory discharges. We have seen laundry and dishes being washed in this water and children playing in this water. There are 150,000 people face to face with death."

8349

CS0: 5400

LARGE NUMBER OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES GO UNREPORTED

Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 22 Aug 79 p 6

[Text] The government has declared that the 20th Pan American Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Conference which will take place in Uruguay next December is of national interest. According to plans, this meeting, organized by the Latin American Union of Tuberculosis Societies [ULAST], will be attended by outstanding specialists in the area.

The fact that Montevideo continues to be the place where this type of scientific meeting is held--such as the recent Immunology Conference--honors the country and is worth special mention.

Uruguay's progress in the field of health resulting from the extensive medical coverage of its population has without a doubt brought it singular prestige.

Tuberculosis stopped being a serious problem in our society a long time ago, but in other heavily populated areas it has an important incidence, to the detriment of public health. This is well known in most underdeveloped nations, among which we count ourselves, but in some areas we are typical, as, for example, precisely in that of health.

According to data contained in the latest bulletin of the Honorary Committee in the Fight Against Tuberculosis--a worthy and effective organization to judge from the results of its activity--there were 3.0 beds for tuberculosis per 10,000 population in 1978 in Uruguay. This rate is representative of a country with a low incidence, with the remarkable circumstance of our being a developing nation.

The same Committee reported on the level of protection against tuberculosis provided the youngest Uruguayans, pointing out that in the Republic in 1978 94 percent of all newborns and 91 percent of all the children and adolescents were either vaccinated or revaccinated with BCG.

With measures such as this it is possible to maintain a high rate of immunity, making many persons safe from contracting the disease caused by the Koch bacillus.

In addition, by having 21 tuberculosis centers in the 18 departments in the interior and a fully equipped bacteriological laboratory in the capital, it is possible to carry out the diagnostic tests necessary on patients suspected of having tuberculosis and to provide the treatment needed in the known cases.

All these available resources and all the measures taken at the proper time constitute a solid guarantee for the population's health.

However, in Montevideo alone between 500 and 600 cases of pulmonary and extrathoracic tuberculosis (ganglial, intestinal, urogenital and so forth) are recorded annually, which demonstrates the degree to which it is necessary to be on the alert against this infectious disease.

The statistics for the year in progress showed a total of 45 cases in Montevideo during the first quarter--of which 36 were confirmed as pulmonary. The number is not high but according to the Committee it does not correctly reflect the number of persons affected by the disease during that period. What happens is that, although reporting a case of tuberculosis is obligatory, the requirement is often not complied with.

Failure to report a case within a reasonable period decreases the chances of controlling this endemic disease since it prevents the use of complete and up-to-date information which is needed to mount the necessary campaigns.

Hence it is advisable to call attention to these circumstances in order to establish more efficient procedures than those now being used for the appropriate reporting on the part of specialists treating the patients.

Although it is undeniable that the incidence of tuberculosis is decreasing it cannot be said that it has been eradicated from the country. Consequently, the fight continues and it is necessary for it to be continually supported by any resources which tend to minimize the damage caused by the spread of the disease, including of course--as an instrument of priority interest--correct and up-to-date information.

One must not forget that diseases of its kind which have been thought to be defeated have reappeared with renewed vigor at the least expected moment.

9204

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

GERMAN MEASLES EPIDEMIC PREVENTION--The current vaccination campaign against German measles will have decisive positive effects when toward the end of next year and at the beginning of 1981 a German measles epidemic, which is predicted, takes place. Uruguay suffers an epidemic of this infectious disease about every 6 years. For this reason the massive vaccination campaign which is now being carried out in both public and private schools is of a truly important preventive nature. Dr Daniel Fonseca pointed this out to LA MANANA in statements made after the press conference held yesterday in the assembly hall of the University regarding the next Symposium on Immunology. The vaccinations being administered now to the children in the population, Dr Fonseca pointed out--it is expected that 80 percent of the children will be vaccinated--could be described as "altruistic vaccinations." In this manner, and with the cooperation of the people who are responsible, we will succeed in having the above-mentioned German measles epidemic pass virtually unnoticed. Special attention also will be given to the protection of pregnant women, especially those in early pregnancy, because it is the fetus which is particularly vulnerable to German measles and in many cases suffers serious aftereffects such as the premature death of the child or grave birth defects. [Text] [Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 15 Aug 79 p 7] 9204

CSO: 5400

PROBLEMS RELATED TO CHOLERA EPIDEMIC REPORTED

Fight Against Cholera

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 23 Aug 79 p 6

[Text] Epidemiologists with the Public Health Department believe that the Department of Transportation and Communications should take serious and urgent measures aimed at regulating travel conditions in ONATRA conveyances which happen to be "real beds of propagation" for the cholera epidemic.

These experts are part of the National Emergency Sanitary Action Committee recently formed by the Executive Council to fight against epidemics in the country. Following on-site investigations where this disease broke out, the experts concluded that not only does cholera follow the course of the Zaire River, but also the ONATRA [National Transportation Office] ships offer exceptionally propitious conditions for the reproduction of and contamination by the cholera microbes.

Vaccination Program Marred By Fraud

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 25 Aug 79 p 2

[Article by Budim'Bani Yambu K: Anti-Cholera Vaccination Brings Wealth"]

[Text] There is a proverb which states: "It's an ill wind that blows nobody good ." This may be applied to the wave of concern which seized Kinshasa residents when they heard about a cholera epidemic at the door of the capital. Qualified political authorities echo this anxiety and they are doing their utmost to protect the population of Kinshasa against this dangerous disease. Some friendly countries rushed to our aid. Numerous doses of anti-cholera vaccine are being administered "free of charge" to all citizens as a preventive measure.

This is how some employees of the In-Town Health Services have found a way to fill their pockets: they shy away from public places to perform their duty privately, demanding one zaire from each individual before they administer the vaccine and give the medical certificate which, by the way, is in due form.

This fraud is possible due to the fact that the public wanting to be vaccinated in the bureaus of the In-Town Health Services or in appropriated sites, is sent back under pretense that there are no more vaccines. Yet, money-hungry teams are roaming the streets.

Who is organizing this maffia? To be sure, self-seeking employees in collusion with their direct supervisors.

As for the vaccines administered, their dosages is not always correct and they are not always the genuine article. There is cause to be concerned over the fate of those vaccinated. The cheaters are profiteering unpunished from the ill-fortune of others.

6857

CSO: 5400

AUSTRALIA

ANTICANCER VACCINE FOR CATTLE PROVES SUCCESSFUL

Bristane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 9 Aug 79 p 24

[Text] Researchers had produced an anti-cancer vaccine which had proved 90 per cent successful in combating non-advanced eye tumours in cattle, a Queensland University department head said yesterday.

It is hoped that ultimately the Veterinary Pathology and Public Health Department's research will aid treatment of human tumours.

However, the department's head (Professor John Francis) emphasised yesterday the vaccine was still "a long way from any application to man."

But it had attracted favourable attention from Australian and overseas cancer research centres.

The vaccine is extracted from active eye cancer tissue.

Professor Francis said the eye cancer researchers were Dr. Peter Spradbrow, Dr. Denis Hoffman (now with Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) and Mr. Phil Jennings.

"The research could teach much about the immunological treatment of tumours in other species, including man."

The Australian Meat Research Committee yesterday announced a grant of \$115,511 to the

university to continue research this year.

This boosts the committee's grants to the department to nearly \$1,500,000 since 1964.

Professor Francis said that under the same grant, a vaccine against three-day sickness or ephemeral fever, in cattle was being researched.

Virus

Caused by a virus, similar to that which causes rabies, three-day sickness has become a major problem in Queensland. Its characteristics are lameness and loss of appetite.

It is believed doses — only one-tenth the strength of normal injections — given intradermally (within the hide itself) could be equally successful, and substantially cheaper.

Professor Francis said commercial production of the vaccine was possible in 12 months.

AUSTRALIA

RESEARCHERS DEV. OP VACCINE AGAINST NEWCASTLE DISEASE

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 16 Aug 79 p 4

[Text]

RESEARCHERS at the University of Queensland believe they have a vaccine to protect poultry from a serious world-wide poultry disease.

Highly virulent strains of Newcastle disease, which causes millions of dollars loss to the poultry industry, have recently spread through many countries.

Work on the vaccine is being carried out in the virology laboratory of the veterinary science farm by a department of veterinary pathology and public health team led by Dr Peter Spradbrow.

It is being financed by grants of nearly \$38,000 from the Australian chicken meat research committee and the poultry research advisory committee.

HARMLESS

Dr Spradbrow said Newcastle disease caused serious losses to most of the world's poultry industries, except in Australia and New Zealand.

"The introduction of the disease into Australia is a constant threat to the poultry industry here, and we are making preparations to meet it if it comes," Dr Spradbrow said.

"Control of Newcastle disease in other countries depends on expensive detection and slaughter programs or on the continued use of living vaccines, which has some adverse effects on chickens."

He said the poultry industry had for years sponsored studies on the use of harmless Australian strains of the disease as vaccines.

"There are difficulties in undertaking such work in Australia as it is not possible to import the virulent Newcastle disease virus to test the immunity of vaccinated chickens," he said.

Dr Spradbrow said the method of vaccinating the chickens — injecting or applying the vaccine to the eye or nostrils of each chicken — was very costly and cumbersome when a flock of 30,000 had to be vaccinated.

Because chickens infected with Newcastle disease are not allowed into Australia, even for university tests, Dr Spradbrow had to carry out trials on his vaccine in Malaysia.

"We found that our vaccine gave high levels of protection in young chickens against virulent Asian strains of Newcastle disease viruses," he said.

CATTLE INOCULATED AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 29 Jul 79 p 6

[Excerpt]

BESUT, Sat. — The rehabilitation of the livestock industry in Kelantan and Trengganu will begin when the second phase of the inoculation campaign against foot and mouth disease in the two states has been completed.

Agriculture Minister Datuk Shariff Ahmad said today that the second phase of the campaign to inoculate 100,000 head of cattle in the two states was expected to end soon.

Quality-bred Australian cattle had begun arriving for distribution to livestock rearers whose animals were destroyed at the height of the foot and mouth disease outbreak. About 8,200 head of cattle would have arrived by September.

Cold storage

Datuk Shariff said that the number of cattle each would receive would depend on how many of their animals had been destroyed, up to a maximum of eight animals.

CSO: 5400

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE EASES, SALES BEGIN

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 8 Sep 79 p 7

[Text] Veterinary restrictions throughout the Midlands and Mashonaland are being eased as a result of improved preventative measures taken against foot and mouth disease, which affected large areas of the country last year.

Dr Alan Hurrell, the Assistant Director of Veterinary Services, said the overall position of the disease has improved, although there are still isolated pockets of infection in several TTLs.

As a result of the improved situation restrictions on the sale and handling of cattle are being lifted. This is apparent in the increased number of public auctions being held at stock pens, making these sales a returning feature of farming in Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

In the past year there have been occasional restricted sales at Headlands, Bromley, Marandellas and Inyazura. But other sale pens in the Midlands and Mashonaland have been closed.

In December 1978 it was reported that 26 districts, including nearly all those to the south and east of the Bulawayo-Salisbury-Umtali railway line and the Gatooma-Hartley and Que Que districts, were proclaimed foot and mouth areas.

Preventative measures in two major cattle-raising areas in the Lowveld, taken when the thrust of the disease was spreading north and west through the country last year, have had effect.

Since March last year more than 2 million doses of vaccine against foot and mouth have been administered.

Hard work by the staff of the Veterinary Department has now contained the disease, and the situation is described as "decidedly improved."

"Most of the main stock sale yards have been opened again, and others will be opened.

Gwelo and Featherstone are expected to start selling soon, while Mount Hampden might take longer," Dr Hurrell said in an interview with THE HERALD.

Restrictions on the transport of cattle have also been relaxed. Farmers may now transport their stock by rail and road, with limited walking allowed in some areas.

Dr Hurrell said: "Previously, we only enforced a rule that cattle from 'intensive inspection areas' had to be sent by road not rail.

"This restriction is now limited to areas where a threat from the disease might exist."

CSO: 5400

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIANS FACE WORST LOCUST PLAGUE SINCE 1953

New South Wales Warning

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 30 Aug 79 p 2

[Text] NSW could soon face its worst locust plague for 25 years, the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Day, warned yesterday.

The last major plague was in 1953, when locusts ate thousands of hectares of crops and pastures and stripped orchards and market gardens.

Mr Day said that about 15,000 rural properties in NSW were likely to be affected by locust infestation in the next six to eight weeks.

"Landholders in the north can expect waves of hatching in the next week and the central west can expect major hatchings in about three weeks' time," he said.

"It is expected that the infestation will be so large that the Department of Agriculture, bush fire brigades, pasture protection boards and the Australian Plague Locust Commission will all be deeply involved."

The hatchings usually begin in northern NSW in late August and continue south until mid-October.

This year, premature hatchings have occurred in the Delongra, Warialda, Narrabri, Tumungley, Cuthbert, Bingara and Croubie districts.

Insecticides, provided free to landholders, have been stored at Moree, Narrabri and Narrandera and a radio network has been established.

The Department of Agriculture has enough insecticide to destroy 180,000 hectares of locusts.

"However, I emphasize that the prime responsibility for the destruction of the plague locusts rests with the landholders," Mr Day said.

"If they all spray them while they are still in the hopper stage then overall control measures become much more effective."

The department's regional officer at Dubbo, Mr Terry McHugh, said recent rain could increase locust activity.

"A return to warm weather after the rain will trigger the already early hatchings at a greater rate," he said "the next fortnight to three weeks will be the most critical period for graziers."

Mr Delph Evers, a ranger from the Molong Pastures Protection Board, said hatchings reported east of the Harvey Ranges, in the Baldry area, were the first in more than 30 years.

The Opposition spokesman on Agriculture, Mr W. Murray (C.P. Barwon) said yesterday the locust plague threat was a result of Government neglect.

Mr Day had refused to allow spraying of hoppers on farms, or the use of locust-control vehicles, he said.

Plague in Southern Queensland

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 30 Aug 79 p 28

[Text]

SOUTHERN Queensland grain farmers could be on the edge of the most devastating locust plague in Australia this century.

Goondiwindi district farmers are watching anxiously for the first hatchings of Australian plague locusts, expected to sweep along a 150 kilometre belt from the border, through New South Wales and Victoria, and into South Australia.

The first hatchings are expected next week.

Most of the locust egg beds are in the Wagamba Shire, based at Goondiwindi.

Shire clerk (Mr. Dan Anderson) said the plague on this side of the border should not be too severe.

"We have landholders watching for the first sign of the 'hoppers,' just after they hatch.

"That the only time you can get them, as

once they get to the flying stage you've no chance.

"We know of eight egg beds in the shire, but there probably will be others," he said.

"If some locusts do reach the flying stage the winds should take them south. The situation on the New South Wales side of the border will be 'explosive,'" Mr. Anderson said.

Mr. Tom Paaslow, Entomology Director of the Primary Industries plant laboratories, said the Australian plague locust, one of three species that attacked crops in Australia, generally bred in the far west.

Break weather conditions had carried them east in the autumn, and they had laid eggs over a vast area of New South Wales.

"There was a plague of them in Queensland in the 1930s, but we're not over concerned here now," he said. "But if I was in New South Wales I'd be very perturbed."

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

DISEASED OYSTERS--A mysterious disease affecting oysters is threatening the multi-million dollar cultured pearl industry in Western Australia. The disease, which is hampering operators and affecting their profitability in the Broome area, has so far stumped experts. Repeated attempts to diagnose the ailment by enlisting the help of local marine experts have failed. Up to 30 per cent of oyster stocks is being affected by the disease, which was first discovered at Western Australia's largest pearl centre, Kuri Bay. Marine experts from Japan and the U.S. have been enlisted to try to trace the cause of the problem. [Excerpts] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 23 Aug 79 p 3]

CSO: 5400

DISEASED COCOA TREES REMOVAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Accra DAILY GRAPHIC in English 1 Sep 79 p 8

[Excerpt] THE AFRC yesterday launched a mass swollen-shoot cutting-out and replanting programme to get rid of 4.5 million diseased cocoa trees covering over 30,000 acres in the Eastern Region.

Under the programme, the AFRC will pay compensation to affected cocoa farmers based on acreage of farms to be cut-out

Lt. Baah Achamfuor, a member of the Council launched the programme on behalf of the Chairman of the AFRC, Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, at the Koforidua Jackson's Park. He explained that the payment of compensations was expected to "help the farmers during the replanting

of new farms until the trees begin to bear fruit."

"This is to ensure that all farmers are aware of their entitlement so that they are not exposed to the greed of unscrupulous field officers whose conduct is a disservice to the nation," he pointed out.

The farmers were therefore advised not to resist the cutting-out of their affected cocoa trees, but should be willing to show their farm boundaries to enable accurate compensations to be worked out.

Lt. Achamfuor warned that if bold steps were not

taken to eliminate the rate at which swollen-shoot disease was spreading "there will be no cocoa in this region after five years."

He said the war which the AFRC had waged on the swollen-shoot disease would take about four years to end and it was up to the incoming PNP administration to continue with the exercise to yield the desired meaningful results.

Lt. Achamfuor attributed the decline in cocoa production to half measures which were taken by past governments and also the introduction of politics into that sector of the economy.

"The war I am declaring today cannot be waged with weapons but must be fought with seriousness of purpose" he stressed.

CSO: 4420

BRIEFS

PLANT PESTS IN CHAMPASSAK--In July the Agriculture Department of [Meuang] Phon Thong District, Champassak Province sent its technical cadres to [Tasseng] Sak Muong and Phon Thong Cantons to spray insecticides to insect pests which are destroying crops, most notably the rice fields of the people. When they got there they joined with the administrative authorities in diligently applying the pesticide. During that time they were able to spray insecticide and salvage more than 70 hectares of the rice which was being destroyed. At the same time they also sent technical cadres to spray pests and help the Ban Oupalat Agricultural Cooperative. In only a short time they were able to salvage six hectares of crops which were being destroyed. They also vaccinated a number of the cooperative's domestic animals. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 3 Aug 79 p A 4]

PHONG HONG INFESTATION--The [Meuang] Phon Hong District Agriculture Department is sending water pumps and insecticides to the people in order to combat drought this year in line with the plans. The cadres distributed more than 70 liters of (Kameksan) and (Malasong) insecticides and 40 liters of SEVIN insecticide to kill the pests which had been destroying the rice fields. [Excerpt] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 8 Aug 79 pp 1, 4]

CHANTABOULI PESTS--While taking care of this year's rice crop the Agriculture Department of [Meuang] Chantabouli District, Vientiane City and Province, sent insecticides to agricultural cooperatives in four cantons in its jurisdiction to kill pests which are destroying the crops. The material sent included insecticides and a fungicide for transplanted rice. They sent 145 liters of spray, 1000 kilograms of insecticide powder and a number of sprayers. Aside from this the department brought a quantity of tools and seeds to sell to the various cooperatives. These included nine large and small shovels, 12 kilograms of corn seed and 150 kilograms of soybean seed. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 17 Aug 79 p 1]

HEAVY PHONG SALY INFESTATION--From July to the beginning of August, the cadres and state employees of various departments of Phong Saly Province, joined together with the people of various districts to kill plant pests, primarily caterpillars which were destroying the people's crops. During that time they killed a total of 5,535 kilograms of caterpillars and were able to salvage 10 hectares of crops which had been infested by pests. Of that, [Tasseng] Chomtarn Canton alone had 3,278 kilograms. Presently the state employees and the local people are diligently continuing to kill pests, care for the crops and spread fertilizer. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 17 Aug 79 p A 7]

OUDOMSAI INFESTATION--At the beginning of this month the Agriculture Department of Oudomsai Province sent a number of technical cadres to kill pests in order to salvage the transplanted rice facing destruction in [Tasseng] Phon Then, Samphan and Phon Hom Cantons of [Meuang] La District where rice and other crops were being heavily damaged by the pests over an area of 263 hectares. Presently the cadres and people of those localities are diligently carrying out the suppression of pests and spreading fertilizer on the crops to ensure a full harvest at year's end. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 27 Aug 79 p A 7]

LOUANG NAMTHA PESTS--Cadres, employees and workers of the Agriculture Department of Louang Namtha Province have helped the people in leading a campaign against insect pests which had destroyed the rice crops in the districts of Namtha, [Meuang] Sing, [Meuang] Long, [Meuang] Meung, Vieng Phoukha, [Meuang] Na, and Houai Sai. Presently 60,247 hectares have been sprayed with insecticides. [Text] [Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 3 Sep 79 p 2]

CHAMPASSAK PESTS--In mid-August agricultural cadres of [Meuang] Bachiengchaleumsouk and Saisanasomboun Districts of Champassak province went to assist the members of the Ban Ok Meuang agricultural cooperative in [Tasseng] Na Keo and the farmers in 17 villages in [Tasseng] Houai He Canton to spray insecticides to kill caterpillars which were destroying the rice stalks and other crops. They completed spraying of 730 hectares of which 720 hectares were in Houai He Canton. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 5 Sep 79 p A 2]

CSO: 5400

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